



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTANA'S ECONOMY REMAINS STABLE

HELENA, Mont. --- Montana's unemployment rate rose 0.2% over the month to 3.6%. *

Employment also showed a small decline, with a loss of 600 jobs or 0.1%, across the state.

"Montana has enjoyed the third highest per capita income growth over the last year," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Despite this month's two tenths of a point upswing, Montana's unemployment rate continues to track below the national average, demonstrating a strong performance relative to the rest of the nation."

Construction showed the largest gain in employment, adding 200 positions. Other Services ** and Financial Activities each saw an increase of 100 jobs, while Professional and Business Services and Leisure and Hospitality showed no change in employment. Natural Resources and Mining, Manufacturing, Information **, and Education and Health Services ** all recorded a loss of 100 positions. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities declined by 200 jobs, while Government showed a decrease of 900.

Additional information related to this employment situation press release can be found by visiting the Research and Analysis website at www.ourfactsyourfuture.org

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**Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

***These industry sectors are not-seasonally adjusted.*

******* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET *******

County unemployment rates are also available in our monthly economic bulletin, *Montana Economy at a Glance*, and on our website.

Employment information from the Bureau of Indian Affairs is available on the Department of Labor and Industry web page at: dli.mt.gov/resources/articles.asp

The May 2006 Labor Situation Report will be released Friday, June 16, 2006.